

for Min E3
protests attacks
on merchant ships
-- NO mention of
attacks on NV

FBIS (SUB FOR 56) *****
B U L L E T I N

PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS U.S. ATTACKS ON CHINESE SHIPS

B091628 PEKING NCNA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1623 GMT
9 MAY 72 B

(TEXT) PEKING, MAY 9, 1972 (HSINHUA)--STATEMENT OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA,
MAY 9, 1972.

ON MAY 6, 7 AND 8, 1972 WARSHIPS AND AIRCRAFT
OF THE UNITED STATES BRAZENLY AND REPEATEDLY ATTACKED
TWO CHINESE MERCHANT SHIPS, "HONGQI NO. 152- AND "HONGQI
NO. 160", WHICH WERE ANCHORED OFF THE SHORE
OF HON NGU ISLAND OF NGHE AN PROVINCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, WOUNDING CHINESE CREW MEMBERS AND
VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS WHO WERE ON BOARD AT THE TIME AND
SERIOUSLY DAMAGING THE BODIES OF THE SHIPS. THIS
CONSTITUTES A GRAVE PROVOCATION AGAINST THE CHINESE
PEOPLE. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE EXPRESS GREAT
INDIGNATION AT THIS AND LODGE A STRONG PROTEST WITH THE
U. S. GOVERNMENT.

THE U. S. GOVERNMENT MUST IMMEDIATELY STOP ITS
ACTS OF PROVOCATION OF ATTACKING CHINESE MERCHANT SHIPS
AND PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS. OTHERWISE,
IT MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE GRAVE
CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT
RESERVES THE LAWFUL RIGHT TO DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR
ITS LOSSES.

9 MAY 1652Z JAS/GG *****